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WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION
Office of Marketing Services
Marketing Reports Division
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FOR ADMINISTRATIVE USE

HIGHLIGHTS FROM MARKET NEWS REVIEWS

Week ending May 25, 1945

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Potatoes: Shipments the past week increased to a daily average of 384 cars with the week's top at 662 cars for central California, and a total of 2,685 cars. U.S. shipments for the week were 5,542 cars. Total central California movement this season to date, 5,772 cars compared with 4,729 cars last season to the same date.

Demand at the close of the week greatly exceeded supplies. F.O.B. and wholesale at ceiling.

Tomatoes: Rail shipments from Texas dropped the past week to 1,249 cars, 62 percent of the previous week. Shipments for the U.S. dropped to 63 percent of the previous week, or 1,286 cars. No cars were reported loaded out of Imperial Valley, California. Truck shipments from Imperial Valley to California wholesale markets increased heavily over the previous week.

On the wholesale markets of the Pacific Coast, prices remained at or very near ceiling, and demand remained steady during the week.

Cantaloups: Recent forecasts indicate a probable 130,000 crate increase in the 1945 Imperial Valley crop above the 1944 crop. Peak of the crop may be reached during the last half of June.

13 cars were moved by rail the past week from Texas, and 4 cars in L.C.L. lots from Imperial Valley. Truck shipments are rapidly increasing.

Wholesale prices on the Pacific Coast markets were \$8.22 and \$8.57 per Jumbo crate of 36s.

Cherries: Total carlot shipments from California to date this season, 184 cars, compared with 132 cars last season to the same date. During the past week 141 cars were moved. Wholesale prices for good stock ranged 12 cents to 21 cents per pound in the southwest and up to 31 cents in the northwest, poor stock was as low as 4 cents per pound.

New fruits for the season, on the western wholesale markets the past week, were figs from Coachella Valley, California, and peaches from the Sacramento, and San Joaquin Valleys of California.

DAIRY AND POULTRY:

Eggs: Production declined the past week, and demand continued in excess of supplies. This condition was particularly noticeable in the Pacific Northwest:

Wholesale prices compared (Consumer Grade):

	<u>Large A</u>		<u>Medium A</u>		<u>Small A</u>	
	<u>1945</u>	<u>1944</u>	<u>1945</u>	<u>1944</u>	<u>1945</u>	<u>1944</u>
Los Angeles	40 $\frac{1}{2}$	35 $\frac{1}{2}$ -36 $\frac{1}{2}$	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	30-31	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	22-23
Portland	40	33-34	37	29 $\frac{1}{2}$ -30 $\frac{1}{2}$	35	22 $\frac{1}{2}$ -23 $\frac{1}{2}$
San Francisco	40 $\frac{1}{2}$	37	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	30-31 $\frac{1}{2}$	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	21-23 $\frac{1}{2}$
Seattle	40	37-39	37	31-32 $\frac{1}{2}$	35	24-25

Butter: Production on the Pacific Coast has increased about 6 percent above the previous week, but was about 18 percent under the corresponding week a year ago. Demand and supplies remained about equal.

Poultry: Supplies of live and dressed stock continued under demand, although on most of the Pacific Coast supplies of live poultry were slightly heavier than during the previous week.

LIVESTOCK AND MEATS:

Cattle: BAE reports indicate that the 1945 slaughter of cattle and calves may be around 35 million head, compared with 33.7 million head average for 1935-39, which is also an increase over the 1944 slaughter.

Receipts the past week on the four western markets were 15,232 head, an increase of 11 percent above those of the previous week. On the twelve principal markets receipts were 177,900 head, 97 percent of the previous weeks receipts.

Top prices on the western markets for Good to Choice fed steers ranged \$15.65 to \$17.65. Prices on lower grade steers and cows declined toward the end of the week.

Hogs: Demand was in excess of available supplies. Prices on support weights remained at ceiling. Good to Choice feeder pigs sold on a wide range, and top prices were \$19.00 to \$25.00 per cwt.

Receipts on the four western markets the past week were 9,268 head, five percent above those of the previous week. 176,000 head were received on the twelve principal markets, about 1,200 head less than for the previous week.

Sheep: Receipts on the four western markets the past week were again below those of the previous week by about 30 percent, totaling 17,885 head. On the twelve principal markets they were 242,900 head, 96 percent of the previous week.

Top prices on the western markets were \$14.00 to \$15.40 for spring lambs running from 80 to 99 pounds.

GRAIN PRODUCTS:

Wheat: In most of the producing areas the winter crop is reported to be progressing satisfactorily. However, stem and leaf rust has made its appearance in the midwest area. Rain in the northwest helped the crop, and much of it is heading up.

Offerings by growers in all sections were reported to be light. Prices held

steady to higher than the previous week. Bid prices on the Portland market at the close of the week were \$1.54 $\frac{1}{2}$, \$1.56 and \$1.55 per bushel, basis No. 1 grade in bulk 15 day shipment for coast delivery, for Soft White, Western Red and ordinary protein Hard Red Winter. In San Francisco, No. 1 Hard White, and No. 1 Soft White were quoted at \$1.66 $\frac{1}{2}$ per bushel, bulk basis.

Alfalfa: Total production of alfalfa meal, this season to May 1, was 750,843 tons, compared with 609,595 tons for last season to the same date. April production was about 50 percent above April, 1944.

In the Los Angeles market, No. 1 hay without certificate was quoted at \$31.00 to \$32.00 per ton, delivered in the Hynes and El Monte dairy sections.

Barley: Prices in the market areas of San Francisco and Kansas City declined during the past week. Improved weather and crop condition pointed toward better yields.

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